

Message Text

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FOR EB/TCA/MA; PASS MARAD FOR BOURDON; FMC FOR KEHOE

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TAGS: EWWT, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD MARITIME TRANSPORT COMMITTEE - WORKING
GROUP MEETING, JUNE 12-14

REF: PARIS 12817

1. SUMMARY - MTC WORKING GROUP MET JUNE 12-14 AND
WAS STILL UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A DRAFT RESOLU-
TION ON SHIPPING POLICY PRINCIPLES OR GUIDELINES FOR RE-
LATIONS BETWEEN MEMBER AND NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES. THUS
WG'S OCTOBER 1978 MEETING WILL RESUME THE DEBATE IN ITS
EFFORTS TO CONCLUDE THIS PART OF ITS WORK. END SUMMARY.

2. WORKING GROUP (WG) OF MARITIME TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
(MTC) MET JUNE 12-14 UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF ROLAND MURRAY
(CANADA) TO CONSIDER FURTHER TEXTS OF 16 POINTS OF PHASE
III EXERCISE CONCERNING SHIPPING PRINCIPLES OR GUIDE-
LINES FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN MEMBER AND NON-MEMBER COUN-
TRIES IN MATTERS OF SHIPPING POLICY, ESPECIALLY AS
SUCH POLICY RELATES TO FREE AND FAIR COMPETITION. AT
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ITS APRIL MEETING, MTC DIRECTED WP TO CONCENTRATE ON
"CLEANING UP" (I.E. REMOVING SQUARE BRACKETS) FROM TEXTS
OF 16 POINTS. (SEE REFTEL). ALTHOUGH SOME PROGRESS WAS
MADE TOWARD PRODUCING "CLEANER" TEXTS ON SOME POINTS,
THE MEETING AGAIN REVERTED TO LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS OF
FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES STILL EXISTING AMONG SEVERAL
DELEGATIONS. (COMMENT: THESE DIFFERENCES PROBABLY

REFLECT FACT THAT AS EXERCISE APPROACHES ITS CONCLUSION, MANY DELEGATIONS STILL DO NOT KNOW, OR ARE NOT WILLING TO ACKNOWLEDGE WHAT THEY EXPECT TO BE THE OUTCOME OF THE EXERCISE. END COMMENT). FOR EXAMPLE, DIVISION STILL REMAINS ON THE SUBJECTS OF CROSS-TRADER PARTICIPATION IN BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE, TREATMENT OF "GOVERNMENT CARGO" AND THE SUBJECT OF POINT 1, I.E. THE RELATIONSHIP OF THIS EXERCISE TO NOTE 1 OF THE CODE OF INVISIBLE TRANSACTIONS. A REPRESENTATIVE OF INVISIBLE TRANSACTIONS PARTICIPATED IN ONE WG SESSION AND ATTEMPTED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. HOWEVER, NO CLEAR UNDERSTANDING EMERGED CONCERNING HOW FAR THE MTC CAN GO IN ANNOUNCING PRINCIPLES WHICH MIGHT MODIFY, INTERPRET OR UPDATE NOTE 1.

3. IN SUM, THE MTC'S OCTOBER 1978 MEETING WILL BE FACED WITH VERY CONSIDERABLE TASK OF BRINGING THE EXERCISE TO A CONCLUSION. (MTC SECRETARIAT HEAD HUMPHRY EXPRESSED DOUBTS PRIVATELY TO USDEL THAT MTC WILL BE ABLE TO CONCLUDE IN OCTOBER). WHILE U.S. POSITIONS HAVE BEEN SATISFACTORILY ACCOMMODATED TO DATE, DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OTHER DELEGATIONS MAY, IN THE LONG RUN, JEOPARDIZE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS EXERCISE WHICH WE WOULD HOPE WILL INCLUDE A STRONG INFUSION OF CURRENT SHIPPING PRACTICES INTO A SET OF PRINCIPLES WHICH WOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH NOTE 1 OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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INVISIBLES CODE.

4. DUE TO THE WG CONCENTRATION ON WORK ON THE PRINCIPLES, OTHER ITEMS OF THE AGENDA, SUCH AS THE USUAL SHIPPING POLICY REVIEW, WERE HELD OVER TO THE WG'S OCTOBER MEETING.
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